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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:

CHAPTER 11

RANDALL'S ISLAND FAMILY GOLF CENTERS, INC., et al.,

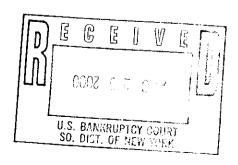
Case Nos,: 00 B 41065(SMB) through 00 B 41196(SMB)

Debtors.

(Jointly Administered)

OBJECTION OF FIRST REPUBLIC BANK TO DEBTOR'S MOTION FOR AN ORDER PURSUANT TO SECTION 1121(d) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE EXTENDING THE EXCLUSIVE PERIODS DURING WHICH ONLY THE DEBTORS-IN-POSSESSION MAY FILE A CHAPTER 11 PLAN OR PLANS

First Republic Bank ("FRP") by and through its undersigned counsel, Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, hereby objects to Randall's Island Family Golf Centers, Inc., et al.'s (collectively the "Debtors") Motion for an Order Pursuant to Section 1121(d) of the Bankruptcy Code Extending the Exclusive Periods During Which Only the Debtors-in-Possession May File a Chapter 11 Plan or Plans (the "Motion"), and in support thereof states as follows:



#### I. BACKGROUND

- 1. On or about March 15, 1996 and November 6, 1996, FRP made certain loans to Stafford Familypark Partners I, L.P. ("Stafford") totaling approximately \$2,250,000.00, as evidenced by various loan documents (the "Loans").
- 2. On or about October 12, 1998, Voorhees Family Golf Centers, Inc. ("Voorhees"), a debtor in the above-captioned jointly administered proceeding, assumed any and all obligations of Stafford regarding the Loans, as evidenced by various assumption documents.
  - 3. FRB is a secured creditor in the above-captioned bankruptcy proceeding.

#### II. OBJECTION

- 4. On May 4, 2000 the Court entered an Order for relief under Chapter 11.
- 5. Pursuant to Section 1121 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors' 120-day exclusivity period for the filing of a Chapter 11 plan shall expire on September 1, 2000.
- 6. The Debtors' Motion seeks to extend the exclusivity period by an additional 120 days through December 30, 2000, and seeks to extend the solicitation period by an additional 120 days through February 28, 2001.
- 7. It is FRB's position that cause does not exist to extend the exclusivity periods in this proceeding, and that extending said exclusivity periods would be detrimental to the interests of the creditors of the Debtors' estates.

#### A. Legal Analysis

- 8. The Debtors' have failed to meet their burden of demonstrating that cause exists to extend of the exclusive period. As such, their Motion should be properly denied.
  - 9. Section 1121(d) of the United States Bankruptcy Code provides that:

On the request of a party in interest made within the respective periods specified in subsections (b) and (c) of this section and after notice and a hearing, the court may for cause reduce or increase the 120-day period or the 180-day period referred to in this section.

11 U.S.C. § 1121(d). Accordingly, courts may increase the exclusivity period in a case for cause.

- 10. The Debtors bear the burden of establishing "cause" for an extension of an exclusive period. In re: Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, Inc., 97 B.R. 852, 854 (Bankr.E.D.La. 1989). A debtor must "make a clear showing of cause to support an extension of the exclusivity period." In re: The Curry Corporation, 148 B.R. 754, 756 (Bankr.S.D.N.Y. 1992) (emphasis added).
- legislative history surrounding the enactment of Section 1121, and by a comparison of Section 1121 to practice under prior bankruptcy law. In re: Gison & Cushman Dredging Corp., 101 B.R. 405, 409 (Bankr.E.D.N.Y. 1989). Section 1121 "was designed, and should be faithfully interpreted, to limit the delay that makes creditors the hostages of Chapter 11 debtors." In re: General Bearing Corporation, 136 B.R. 361, 367 (Bankr.S.D.N.Y. 1992). Thus, "The bankruptcy court must avoid reinstituting the imbalance between the debtor and its creditors that characterized proceedings under the old Chapter XI." In re: Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, Inc., 97 B.R. at

855 (citing <u>In re: Timbers of Inwood Forest Associates, Ltd.</u>, 808 F.2d 363, 372 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1987)).

- 12. Congress enacted Section 1121 in order to limit the debtor's exclusive rights to file a plan to clearly defined periods. <u>In re: Jasik</u>, 727 F.2d 1379, 1382 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984). Section 1121 was passed to place limits on the debtor's exclusive right to propose a plan and in recognition of the creditor's stake in the debtor's business. <u>In re: Texaco</u>, Inc., 76 B.R. 322, 325-26 (Bankr.S.D.N.Y. 1987).
- been demonstrated by debtors in the following situations: Where the debtor has made substantial progress toward gaining acceptance of its plan. <u>In re: Perkins</u>, 71 B.R. 294, 298 (Bankr.W.D.Tenn. 1987); when the recalcitrance of certain creditors has posed a significant hurdle to timely plan development. <u>Texas Etrusion Corp. v. Lockheed Copr.</u>, 844 F.2d 1142, 1160 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988); or when the presence of complex legal issues has preoccupied much of the debtor's plan-making opportunity. <u>In re: Perkins</u>, 71 B.R. at 298. None of the foregoing are applicable to the instant matter.
- 14. It is imperative for secured creditors such as FRB to be made aware as soon as possible, whether the Debtors intend to resume payment under the terms of the Loans within a plan of reorganization.
- 15. Extending the exclusivity period will only create an undue and unnecessary burden on the Debtors' creditors, and will only further delay these proceedings.

#### B. Conclusion

- 16. When the Court is determining whether to terminate a debtor's exclusivity, the primary consideration should be whether or not doing so would facilitate moving the case forward. In re: Dow Corning Corp., 208 B.R. 661, 670 (Bankr.E.D.Mich. 1997).
- 17. Extending the exclusivity period will not move this case forward, and will result only in prejudice to the Debtors' creditors.
- 18. For the foregoing reasons FRB asserts that cause does not exist to extend the exclusivity period in this proceeding, and that the Debtors' Motion should therefore be properly denied.

WHEREFORE, FRB respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter an Order denying the Motion, and granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just.

Respectfully submitted,

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### UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:

RANDALL'S ISLAND FAMILY GOLF

CENTERS, INC., et al.,

Debtors.

**CHAPTER 11** 

Case Nos.: 00 B 41065(SMB) 00 B 41196(SMB) through

(Jointly Administered)

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ryan W. Decker, Esquire, of the law firm of Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hegist 28, 2000 I caused a true Hippel LLP, do hereby certify that on and correct copy of the Objection of First Republic Bank to the Debtors' Motion for an Order Pursuant to Section 1121(d) of the Bankruptcy Code Extending the Exclusive Periods During Which Only the Debtors-in-Possession May File a Chapter 11 Plan or Plans, to be served upon each of the parties on the attached service list via first class United States mail, postage prepaid, or Federal Express as indicated.

Date: 8/28/00

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